

## Changes in HUD Assisted Rental Unit Counts 2001 and 2002 Oregon Funding Reports

### Errors in the 2001 Report

The 2001 funding report indicated that 50,629 Oregon households were receiving HUD rental assistance. That number was incorrect; the correct 2001 number was 49,677, a difference of 952. This corrected count still represented an increase between 2000 and 2001 of 828 units.

The over counting of units occurred in the Section 8 tenant-based (voucher) program involving three public housing agencies: Central, Northwest and Portland. The table below shows those differences by housing authority and the notes below the table explain the specifics.

	<b>Original 2001</b>	<b>Corrected 2001</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Total Assisted Units</b>	<b>50,629</b>	<b>49,677</b>	<b>( 952)</b>
Central Oregon	1,093	993	(100)
Northwest Oregon	1,092	1,075	( 17)
Portland	7,523	6,688	(835)

#### Notes:

- Central Oregon: An internal input into the national database (HUDCAPS) incorrectly recorded units for a renewal; thereby double counting one allocation.
- Northwest Oregon: This also was a national database error.
- Portland: The corrected numbers have been confirmed with the Housing Authority. The error appeared to be a double counting of three allocations on renewal, including a 700 unit allocation for Welfare to Work Vouchers.

The sporadic double counting of allocations demonstrated by these three housing authorities was a programming error that now appears to have been corrected.

### The 2002 Funding Report Shows a Decline in Units, But Timing of Information May be the Cause

Even with the correction of the 2001 unit count, our 2002 funding report shows an overall decrease in the number of assisted units to 49,443, or 234 units below our corrected 2001 funding report total. This occurred even with a 572 net increase in voucher units under contract. By program this is how the units in the corrected 2001 and 2002 funding reports look:

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Total Assisted Units</b>	<b>49,443</b>	<b>49,677</b>	<b>(234)</b>
Public Housing	6,129	6,053	76
Sec 8, Mod Rehab	1,005	1,143	(138)
Sec 8, Vouchers	30,693	30,121	572
Sec 8, Added	387	1,096	(709)
Sec 8, Project Based	11,158	11,169	(11)
Sec 202, Elderly	31	58	(27)
Sec 811, Disabilities	40	37	3

(Note that even with these changes the **funding levels** for HUD rental assistance **increased** from 2001 to 2002 by \$3 Million to \$254 Million, and from 1998 to 2002 by \$76 Million (42%).

We believe the decrease shown in the 2002 report is a matter of timing of the information for different programs we use for the funding reports and possibly the variations among fiscal years used by different housing authorities.

The Sec. 8 Voucher, Moderate Rehab and Project-Based unit counts are snapshots in time of units under contract, and the time is different for each program. Because a snapshot is used:

- Replacement vouchers for opt outs may be in process and not yet reflected in our counts.
- Units awarded in a prior year may not be under contract yet.
- Incremental vouchers may be counted as “added” and under contract in the same year, if housing authorities have been fast in getting funds under contract quickly.

While we *suspect* timing is the reason for the difference we won't be able to confirm that until the next round of funding reports. In the meantime we judged it most important to reflect our snapshot instead of making some behind the scene adjustments to reflect what we think may have happened.